

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kouichi Tanigawa

Serial No.: not yet assigned

Filed: August 21, 2001

For: SOLID-STATE IMAGING DEVICE

Case No.: 9792909-5154

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

Examiner: not yet assigned

Date: August 21, 2001

Express Mail Label No. EL834728608US

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Ellen Hogan Date

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Between the title and the heading "Background of Invention" on page 1, insert the following:

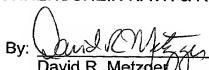
--RELATED APPLICATION DATA

The present invention claims priority to Japanese Application No. P2000-251241, filed August 22, 2000, which application is incorporated herein by reference to the extent permitted by law.--

Respectfully submitted,

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